

East Germany
5 January 1962

RADIO GDR INVITES FULBRIGHT TO REPLY

Berlin Domestic Service in German 1800 GMT, 4 January 1962

(TEXT) The Chairmen of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Fulbright, has now replied to the open letter addressed to him by GDR radio commentator Goetz Gaertner. The open letter, which was broadcast over all GDR stations, drew attention to the need for arriving at an appreciation of realities and an understanding on the questions concerning the preservation of peace, which are of vital importance to everybody regardless of ideological differences. In this context, the GDR's safety measures of 13 August were described as an action which had highlighted international reality and thus helped to clear up confusion.

The open letter also paid tribute to realistic utterances made by Senator Fulbright on the situation in Germany. This influential U.S. statesman said in a U.S. TV broadcast before 13 August: "I do not understand why the East Germans do not close their frontier, because in my view they have the right to close it." In his reply to Goetz Gaertner, Fulbright expresses that he would be pleased to reply in detail to the points made by the GDR commentator. Senator Fulbright suggests that his reply should be broadcast over the same radio stations which carried the open letter addressed to him. The management of radio GDR has accepted his offer and informed him that he may expound his views over GDR radio in mid-February.